

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 5-16, 18, and 19 are pending in this application.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 18, and 19, and has canceled claims 4 and 17 (claim 3 was previously canceled). The changes to the claims made herein do not introduce any new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4-6 and 12 define allowable subject matter. As will be explained in more detail below, Applicant has amended the claims to place the subject application in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 18, and 19 to include the features specified in original claim 4. In light of the Examiner's indication that claim 4 defines allowable subject matter, present claims 1, 18, and 19 define allowable subject matter. As noted above, Applicant has canceled claims 4 and 17.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawamura et al.* ("Sawamura") (US 5,012,299) in view of the *Horváth* publication and *Axelrod* (US 5,860,518) (as noted above, claim 17 has been canceled). As discussed above, each of present claims 1, 18, and 19 defines allowable subject matter. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 18, and 19, as amended herein, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of *Sawamura* in view of *Horváth* and *Axelrod*.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 2 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawamura* in view of *Horváth* and *Axelrod*, and further in view of *Samworth* (US 5,297,058). Each of claims 2 and 16 depends

from present claim 1, which defines allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 2 and 16 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Sawamura* in view of *Horváth* and *Axelrod*, and further in view of *Samworth* for at least the reason that each of these claims depends from claim 1.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawamura* in view of *Horváth* and *Axelrod*, and further in view of *Okawara et al.* (“*Okawara*”) (US 5,317,678). Claim 7 depends from present claim 1, which defines allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 7 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Sawamura* in view of *Horváth* and *Axelrod*, and further in view of *Okawara* for at least the reason that this claim depends from claim 1.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 8-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawamura* in view of *Horváth* and *Axelrod*, and further in view of the *Oken et al.* publication. Each of claims 8-11 and 13 ultimately depends from present claim 1, which defines allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 8-11 and 13 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Sawamura* in view of *Horváth* and *Axelrod*, and further in view of the *Oken et al.* publication for at least the reason that each of these claims ultimately depends from claim 1.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawamura* in view of *Horváth* and *Axelrod*, and further in view of *Shimada* (US 2003/0038870 A1). Each of claims 14 and 15 ultimately depends from present claim 1, which defines allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 14 and 15 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Sawamura* in view of *Horváth* and *Axelrod*, and further in view of *Shimada* for at least the reason that each of these claims ultimately depends from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of claims 1, 2, and 5-16, 18, and 19, as amended herein, and submits that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at **(408) 749-6902**. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. MIPFP180).

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE PENILLA & GENCARELLA, L.L.P.

/Peter B. Martine/

Peter B. Martine
Reg. No. 32,043

710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 200
Sunnyvale, California 94085
Customer Number 25920